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The nebula, as shown on the photographs, is roughly pentagonal in shape, the most salient angle pointing directly to *Merope*. From opposite sides, symmetrically placed with respect to the line joining the nebula and the star, two wisps of nebulosity stream away, and join the other nebulous wisps which are characteristic of the region. It is possible that this appearance may be illusory, as the wisps of nebulosity may be continued on the other side of the nebula, instead of proceeding from it; there is not a sufficient interval on the plate between the nebula and the star to allow this supposition to be tested. The angular form of the nebula, however, seems to show that it is not a cometary or planetary nebula fortuitously placed in line with a nebulous cluster, and it is altogether probable that it is a part of the general nebulous system of the *Pleiades*.

The photographs are on a large scale ($1^{\text{mm}} = 38''.7$), and are of excellent definition. Stars are shown double which are single on the Paris map. The plates were coated on the back to prevent "halation."

JAMES E. KEELER.

THE MOTION OF THE POLE.

In connection with an investigation of the revised elements of the motion of the Earth's pole, based on modern observations, Dr. S. C. CHANDLER gives in *Astronomical Journal*, 446, diagrams for comparison of its observed course between 1890 and 1897.5, with that predicted by the geometrical theory deduced some years ago from observations from 1825 to 1893. We have reproduced these diagrams here, as they are of very great interest, inasmuch as they afford a graphic proof of the truth of the theory that is most convincing. A careful comparison will show that, as Dr. CHANDLER says, "what differences exist are of a subordinate nature; that is, they manifestly relate to the need of slight emendation of the numerical constants used, and not to the correctness of the geometrical theory." We may, therefore, take it as demonstrated "that the Earth's axis is subject to a composite motion arising from a uniform circular revolution in 428 days, and a very eccentric central elliptic motion obeying the law of proportionality of times to areas about a mean position on the Earth's surface." Subsequent observations will perfect the details of the theory, but are not likely to affect the main conclusions.

R. G. AITKEN.

TRAJECTORY OF THE POLE.

